REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 18, 2004. Claims 1-37 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29-31, 36 and 37, which are the independent claims, have been amended to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent No. 5,659,164 ("*Schmid*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,019,916 ("*Ogura*").

The present invention relates to an information processing system having a multifunction apparatus, which is equipped with a facsimile function, and an information processing apparatus. Generally speaking, the claims have been amended to distinguish still more clearly between the transmission portion of the multifunction apparatus and a receiving apparatus to which data is transmitted.

Amended independent Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, changing means for controlling the size of each page of the output image data such that all the pages coincide in size with the output size of a prescribed page. Claim 1 further recites transmitting means for transmitting, from the multifunction apparatus to a receiving apparatus, the output image data processed by the changing means. Thus, it is clear that the sizes of the pages of the output image data are controlled at the transmitting end. Among the advantages provided by this configuration is that the uniformly-sized pages are available to the multifunction apparatus for other purposes, e.g., for printing. In addition, this configuration allows a receiving apparatus to receive documents in a uniform size without special capabilities or processing at the receiving end.

Schmid relates to automatically creating, identifying, routing and storing digitally scanned documents. In the *Schmid* system, pages of originals are scanned in, and

each page of data is associated with corresponding page-specific data. The image data and page data are stored prior to transmission. As is conceded in the Office Action, *Schmid* does not teach or suggest modifying image or page size.

Ogura relates to a digital copier having a facsimile function, where the receiving side changes the size of received a received document according to the paper size used at the receiving side, and based on size information transmitted by the transmitting side. As discussed in Applicants' previous response, in the *Ogura* approach, the received document size (such as A3) is magnified at the receiving side to a size (such as A4) which the receiving side is capable of handling (e.g., a size which the receiving machine is built to handle). In *Ogura*, when a series of pages with a plurality of mixed paper sizes is transmitted, the size of each page is magnified – again, at the receiving side – to the appropriate size page by page.

Nothing has been found, or pointed out, in *Ogura* that would teach or suggest changing means for controlling the size of each page of the output image data such that all the pages coincide in size with the output size of a prescribed page and then transmitting, from the multifunction apparatus to a receiving apparatus, the resulting uniformly-sized pages, in the manner recited in Claim 1. Thus, *Ogura* does not remedy the deficiencies of *Schmid* as a reference against Claim 1.

For these reasons, at least, Claim 1 is believed to be clearly allowable over *Ogura* and *Schmid*, taken separately or in any possible combination (assuming for argument's sake that such combination would even be permissible).

Independent Claims 15 and 29 are method and computer-readable memory claims, respectively, corresponding to Claim 1, and are believed to be allowable over the cited art for the same reasons as is Claim 1.

Independent Claim 8 recites, *inter alia*, changing means for controlling the size of each page of the output image data such that all the pages coincide in the size with the output size of the prescribed page and transmitting means for transmitting, to the multifunction apparatus, the output image data processed by the changing means and address information of a receiving apparatus, for transmission of the output image data to the receiving apparatus. As with Claim 1, it is clear that the sizes of the pages of the output image data are controlled at the transmitting end.

Independent Claim 31 recites, *inter alia*, a processing unit that attaches cover page information, which has the same size as the output data, and a transferring unit that transfers the output data to the data transmission device, along with the cover page information and address information of the receiving apparatus, for transmission of the data and the cover page information to the receiving apparatus. Again, the uniformity between the size of the cover sheet and the size of the output data is controlled at the transmitting end.

Accordingly, for similar reasons to those discussed above with respect to Claim 1, Claims 8 and 31 also are believed to be clearly allowable over *Ogura* and *Schmid*, taken separately or in any possible combination.

Independent Claims 22 and 30 are method and computer-readable memory claims, respectively, corresponding to Claim 8, and are believed to be allowable over the cited art for the same reasons as is Claim 8. Independent Claims 36 and 37 are method and computer-readable program claims, respectively, corresponding to Claim 31, and are believed to be allowable over the cited art for the same reasons as is Claim 31.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the

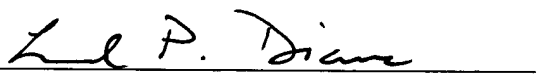
same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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